



SOUVENIR FACSIMILE OF THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

IN THE HANDWRITING OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company

Address delivered at the dedication of the
Cemetery at Gettysburg.

Four score and seven years ago our fathers
brought forth on this continent, a new na-
tion, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated
to the proposition that all men are cre-
ated equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war,
testing whether that nation, or any nation
so conceived and so dedicated, can long
endure. We are met on a great battle-field
of that war. We have come to dedicate a
portion of that field, as a final resting
place for those who here gave their lives,
that that nation might live. It is alto-
gether fitting and proper that we should
do this.

But, in a larger sense, we can not ded-
icate — we can not consecrate — we can not
hallow — this ground. The brave men, liv-

ing and dead, who struggled here have con-
secrated it, far above our poor power to add
or detract. The world will little note, nor
long remember what we say here, but it can
never forget what they did here. It is for as
the living, rather, to be dedicated here to
the unfinished work which they who fought
here have thus far so nobly advanced.
It is rather for us to be here dedicated to
the great task remaining before us,—that
from these honored dead we take increased
devotion to that cause for which they gave
the last full measure of devotion—that
we here highly resolve that these dead shall
not have died in vain—that this nation,
under God, shall have a new birth of free-
dom—and that government of the people,
by the people, for the people, shall not per-
ish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln.

November 19. 1863.

Five different original versions of the Gettysburg Address are extant. This version of thirty-seven lines was first reproduced in 1864 in a volume entitled "Autograph Leaves of Our Country's Authors." It represents President Lincoln's final judgment as to the content of the address. It is generally known as the Fifth Draft, but it is sometimes designated as "the standard version." At an auction sale held on April 27, 1949, Oscar B. Cintas of Havana, Cuba, purchased the draft for \$54,000.

The so-called First and Second Drafts of twenty-nine lines and thirty-three lines respectively are the property of the Library of Congress. A Third Draft of thirty-one lines is the property of The Illinois State Historical Library and a Fourth Draft of thirty-one lines has been acquired by Cornell University.

The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company
Fort Wayne, Indiana

